Secrt. II-27—200,000—23-8-48.

(1948) Department

SERIES.

G.O. No. 3656

Dated 9-7-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Public Services - Forest Department - Post of Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests - Madras - Appointment of Non-technical men - Papers Recorded.

Development Department.

Memo No.77791 E/47-1, dated 9-8-49.

Subject: Gazetted Officers - Forest Department. Post of Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests - Appointment of non-technical men.

Originally the post of Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests was held by a Deputy Collector. subsequently, from the time of Mr. Shelswell's appointment to the post, it has been held by a Deputy Conservator. Now that there is a scarcity of Forest Officers it has been suggested that appointment to the post may be made by transfer from the Madras General Service of the Madras Civil Service ar that the scale of pay of Deputy Collector with Madras House Allowance may be fixed for the post. If Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to offer his remarks in the suggestion urgently.

Sd. x x x x x x x x,
19-8-49.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests.

FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
J.A.Mastor, Esq., I.F.S.
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Egmore Madras.

To
The Joint Secretary to Gover ment, Development Department Madras

Ref.No.14262/47B-1. Dated the 6th October 1947.

Sir,

Sub: Gazetted Officers - Forest Departmentof Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests - Appointment of non-technical mer

Ref: Government Memorandum No.77791-C/47-1, Develc ment dated 19-8-47

When the post of the Chief Conservator of For in this Province was first created, the appointment of a Personal Assistant was concurrently sanctioned with a view tc relieving the Chief Conservator of Forests of as much routir work as possible and thus enabling him to concentrate on his principle function which was to be the Development of the Forest Estate of the Province. In G.O.No.692 Revenue Special dated 11-4-1919 it was ordered that the post was to be filled by a specially selected Deputy Collector who would be granted in addition to his grade pay a special allowance of Rs.200/- per mensem subject to a maximum remuneration of 8(per mensem. The tenure of the office was ordinarily to be limited to three years and an officer appointed to the post w to be on probation for six months within which period he w liable to reversion to the ordinary line if found unsuitable. The post was held by the following Deputy Collectors:-

Sri. A.Appadurai Pillai from 16-6-1919.
Sri S.Amritaswami Pillai From 15-6-1922.
Sri K.Raman Nayar from 18-6-1924.

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P.T.O.

2. In G.O.212 dated 3-2-20 Government approved of the proposal to remove the restriction of a maximum remuneration of Rs. 800/- per mensem as the duties of the post were considered to correspond with those of a Under Secretary to Government and required considerable secretariat aptitude and Office experienc It was therefore considered necessary to extend the field of selection so as to cover the whole Provincial Civil Service and not only the third or lower grade of Deputy Collectors. as would necessarily be the case if the limit of Rs.800/- per mensem was adhered to.

3. Consequent on the incapacitation for outdoor work of Mr. O.H.C.Shellswell I.F.S., as a result of an attack by a wild elephant while on duty, it was considered necessary to provide him with a sedentary occupation and he was accordingly appointed as Personal Assistant From 16-4-1926. The Post has since been held by an I.F.S. Officer. In 1936 when drastic retrenchment was necessitated by the policy of the then Government in regard to prohibition, Government proposed that the post of Personal Assistant should be held by a Provincial Forest Service Officer. They were however persuaded that inview of the specialised nature and importance of the work of the Persona Assistant, the Chief Conservator of Forests should be permitted to continue to have an officer of the I.F.S as Personal Assistant vide paragraph 11 of G.O.No.2189 Development dated 5-9-38.

4. On account of the termination of the services of all European Indian Forest Service Officers in the Province from 15-8-47 the situation now is that four of the five conservators are newly promoted men and several Divisions are being manned by Ranger promoted Assistant Conservators of Forests. The consequent temporary lose of efficiency in Forest administration naturally thrown an enormouslyincreased burden on the Chief Conservator and his Office, and it would be most unjudicious, if at this juncture I were to be deprived of the valuable assistance of a senior Indian Forest Service Officer as Personal Assistant. Besides several plans for imporved land management in the Province, resumption of control over Panchayat Forests and assumption of control over badly managed Private Forests ~~and assumption of control over~~ are consideration of Government and the excution of these plans would entile a considerable increase in the routine of this Office and require much more technical knowledge on the part of the Personal Assistant than can be expected from any Deputy Collector. I would therefore suggest that the proposal to replace the Indian Forest Service Personal Assistant by an Officer of the Provincial Civil Service may be deferred for at least five years by which time it is hoped that as a result of experience gained by the present Conservator and District Forest Officers a higher standard of administration will have been reached and the necessity for constant guidance from the Chief Conservator of Forests largely eliminated.

Sd. x x x x x x x x,
for Chief Conservator of Forests.

D.O.No.14262-47-B1

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Egmore, Madras, dated the 6th December 1947.

Dear Sir,

Subject : POST OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS - Necessity for continuance of a Forest Officers.

In continuation of the discussion of this morning I enclose a copy of the note on the subject, which I wanted to read out to you but could not, for want, of time. The note deals with only a few important points but what has been said will, I am sure, convince you of the real necessity for my having a Forest Officer as Personal Assistant, in preference to a Revenue Officer.

I submit that if the Secretariat and the Finance Secretary are in favour, of appointing a revenue officer as my Personal Assistant, it is because they are not aware of the real nature and magnitude of the purely technical work attended to by the Personal Assistant, I cannot have any real assistance in regard to the technical side of the work from a non- technical Personal Assistant.

The Finance Secretary has looked at the question obviously from the point of view of finance (i.e.,) the saving of an I.F.S. officer's salary. There will I submit, be no real saving because an I.F.S. officer whether employed as Personal Assistant or as a District Forest Officer will draw the same salary. If it is still insisted on that an I.F.S. officer should not be employed as Personal Assistant, I am , as personally explained, prepared to give up the I.F.S. post sanctioned in the permanent cadre and be content with a Provincial Forest Service officer - an Assistant Conservator of Forests - for the post on a lower scale of pay than the I.F.S. . With the experience of over 21 years which the Forest Department has had with a Forest Officer as Personal Assistant, and with my own expereince as a Forest Officer of over 32 years standing, I respecfully submit that a Forest Officer - for that matter - even a graduate Ranger with good experience - ought to be preferred to a revenue officer, for this important and specialised work of Personal Assistant. As personally explained, I would prefer to place an Assistant Conservator of Forests promoted from rangers in charge of a division rather than have a revenue officer with no knowledge of the technical branch of the work of the department as my personal Assistant. The scale of pay for the Assistant Conservator of Forests is Rs.260-40/2-500-50/2-700, against Rs.300-50/2-700 for a Deputy Collector - even in this respect the Assistant Conservator of Forests is preferable to a revenue officer. When if it is possible to have a Forest officer in the Provincial Service, on the same scale of pay as or even less than a Deputy Collector, I would most emphatically urge that I be allowed a Forest Officer as my Personal Assistant who will be of real help to the Chief Conservator of Forests in the technical side of the work. With the increase in my own work it has become necessary for me to depute the Personal Assistant at times to inspect forests, to study the technical aspects of their working ~~e-ndr~~ and regeneration and discuss matters with me. At times he has to put up drafts on technical matters to various officers and also to the Inspector General of Forests. Such help it will be impossible for me to have from a Deputy Collector. If, however, Government are anxious to effect an economy by taking away the I.F.S. Personal Assistant, I would, as personally explained, post a Provincial Forest service officer (at the same cost as a Deputy Collector) as Personal Assistant, and propose the posting of Mr. Ramabadran as Principal Madras Forest College and the consequential posting of Mr. Ali Khan as a District Forest Officer.

If in spite of all that has been said, Government still wish to pursue the matter of appointing a Revenue Officer as my Personal Assistant, I request that the Inspector General of Forests and other Provinces be consulted as to whether anyone other than a forest Officer has been ~~employed as Personal~~

employed as Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests. I would finally urge that scarcity of Forest Officers, which adduced as the reason for the proposal to appoint a revenue officer as Personal Assistant, is not such as to warrant or even justify the proposal A ~~Fee~~ Forest Officer, can, without difficulty, continue to be spared for this important work and there is nothing to be gained, but everything to be lost from the point of view of effective and efficient assistance fo Chief Conservator by the proposed replacement of the Forest Officer by a revenue officer as Personal Assistant.

I earnestly request ~~that~~ that you will pleased to accept my considered advice in this important matter concerning the administration of the Forest Department which is a purely technical one and allow me to post a suitable Assistant Conservator of Forests as my Personal Assitant

Enc: Copy of a Note.

To.

The Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon,
Minister in charge of Agriculture
Forest etc.,
Fores Fort St. George

Post of Personal Assistant to Chief Conservator of Forests - Necessity for continuance of a Forest Officer.

With the separation of " Forests" from the Board of Revenue and the creation of a separate post of Chief Conservator of Forests in 1919, the post of Personal Assistant came into existence in order to relieve the Chief Conservator of Forests as much routine work as possible and enable him to concentrate on the development of the Forest Estate of the Province. A specially selected Deputy Collector of the Revenue Department was appointed as Personal Assistant Not because he was preferred to a Forest Officer but to enable the Chief Conservator of Forests to have the experience of the then Forest Assistant Sri s. Amrthasami Pillai. This arrangement of a Deputy Collector being Personal Assistant continued till 1926 - for about 7 years. Subsequent the post of Personal Assistant has been held by <u>Forest Officer - Since April 1926 for a period of over 21 years.</u>

With this long experience of over 21 years the Chief Conservator is in a position to appreciate how valuable has been the assistance he has derived from a technically qualified Forest Officer as Personal Assistant.

In continuation of the discussion of this morning I enclose a copy of the note on the subject, which I wanted to read out to you but could not, for want, of time. The note deals with only a few important points but what has been said will, I am sure, convince you of the real necessity for my having a Forest Officer as Personal Assistant, in preference to a Revenue Officer.

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In the reorganisation of 1928-32 Government accepted the need and provided for the retention of a Forest officer in the Indian Forest Service for the post of Personal Assistant in the permament cadre. In connection with the 1938 retrenchment, Government raised the question of ~~it~~ replacing the Indian Forest Service post for Personal Assistant by a post in the Provincial Forest Service, but were eventually convinced of the necessity for retaining an Indian Forest service Officer as Personal Assistant in view of the specialised nature and importance of the work. It is thus clear, that, even amongst Forest Officers, Government were satisfied, that the nature of the work expected of the Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests was of such importance as to justify a preference for an Indian Forest, Service Officer.

Viewed against this back ground, the present proposal to replace an Indian Forest Service Personal Assistant by a Deputy Collector (who is not even a Forest Officer) is a retrograde step - a reversion to the arrangement of 1919-26- after the change in conditions over more than 2 decades.

Scarcity of forest officers has been put forth as the reason for the proposal. The position is however, not so acute as to necessitate or justify taking away a forest officer from this important and specialised work.

2. The work of the Personal Assistant to-day is not of a purely routine nature as it was in the initial stages of the Forest Department. With the advance of Forestry, and Research work, the technical side of the work of the department is expanding. While it will be possible for a non-technical officer like a Deputy Collector (or even for a ministerial subordinate of ability in the Forest Department promoted to the post as in the case of Assistant Secretaries to Government, Board of Revenue etc.) to attend to purely routine matters unconnected with the technical side, such as office administration, establishment matters, disciplinary cases etc., a Forest Officer who alone possess technical knowledge and training will be indespensible to give efficient assistance to the Chief Conservator in matters connected with the technical side of Forest Administration.

For instance, the work connected with the preparation revision, amendments from time to time of prescriptions, etc. of working Plans which form the frame work upon which the forests are managed, cannot be attended to by a non-technical Personal Assistant (Even the technical terms cannot be easily understood) Government have realised the importance and the necessity for the restoration of the Working Plans Circle and the work in this branch - Purely technical - is already increasing and is bound to increase and to claim considerable attention at the hands of the Chief Conservator who must have the assistance of his Personal Assistant- to scrutinise technical details from the stage of the Reconnaissance Report discuss silvicultural problems, regeneration technicque working statistics etc. to enable the Chief onservator to pass orders. It must be remembered that due to the war, considerable over-exploitation of timber and fuel has occurred in recent years. Fuel and timber scarcity is already felt. It is most imperative to draw up proper plans on the latest scientific lines and sylvicultural principles, to imporve the ecm conditions. The detailed work connected with this technical side cannot be attended to by a non-technical Personal Assistant. The other branches which involve technical knowledge, to mention only a few, are forest Research where much valuable work is being done in different directions imporved Land Management and Soil Conservation, resumption of Panchayat management assumption of control of badly managed

A Deputy Collector with absolutely no technical knowledge cannot deal with or assist the Chief Conservator in these matters - at any rate, with the slightest approach to efficiency.

3. The work of the Chief Conservato and of his office has considerably increased in the last ten years and more specially after the war.

The Personal Assistant has been of great help to Chief Conservator, especially on the technical side. It is necessary for the Chief Conservator to depute his Personal Assistant sometimes to insepect forests to Study the conditions and advice him on the technical side of regeneration work to be undertaken. A Revenue Officer cannot undertake such work. Were the Chief Conservator to be deprived of a Forest Officer as his Personal Assistant it will be impossible for him to carry on the administration efficiently - without any technical assistance which can only be had from a Forest Officer and not from a non-technical Personal Assistant. Had there been two Personal Assistants - one for the technical side and the other for the non-technica it will be possible to employ a Deputy Collector as the non-technical Personal Assistant with a Forest Officer as the technical Personal Assistan But so long as the duties of both are combined in one Personal Assistant, it is absolutely essential to have none other than a technically qualified Forest Officer as Personal Assistant. A forest officer can continue to be spared for this post and the proposal to have a Deputy Collector as Personal Assistant to deal with work of a technical nature cannot recommend itself from the point of view of Forest Administration

Sd/x x x x x x x x
Chief Conservator of Forests.

Development Department

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract.

Public Services - Forest Department - Post of Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests Madras - Appointment of non-technical man - Papers Recorded.

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Development Department.

G.O.Ms.No.3656 Dated 9-7-48.

Read the following:

Government Memo No.77791C/47-1, dated 19-8-47.
From the Chief Conservator of Forests
No.14262/47-B1, dated 6-10-47 and 6-12-47.

O R D E R :

R E C O R D E D

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests.

NG.5.